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Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Insektenfauna von Kamerun.

(Contributions to the knowledge of the Insect Fauna of the Cameroons.)

N:o 18.

Phytophagous Coleoptera obtained by Prof. SjÖSTEDT in the Cameroons.

By

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With 1 plate.

Taf. 10.

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The Phytophagous Coleoptera of West Africa and in particular of the Cameroons have up to the present never been the subject of a special monograph to my knowledge. THOMSON in the Arch. ent. 1858 has perhaps contributed the greater numbers of species found in the Gaboon country. All the numerous species since described from that part of Africa are distributed in any number of publications, too numerous to mention; in one of the next numbers of the Stettiner Entom. Zeitschr. there will appear the descriptions of those species obtained by Herr CONRADT in the Cameroons, which have been submitted to me for examination. In the present paper I have given a list of those obtained by Prof. SJÖSTEDT in the same locality with the description of the species which seem to be new. West Africa has without doubt a perfectly distinct fauna from that of other parts of the continent and if properly explored will doubtless furnish yet a host of new and interesting species.

Sagrinæ.

1. *Sagra seraphica* LAC.
2. *Sagra Deyrollei* THOMS.

Criocerinæ.

1. *Lema erycina* BALY.
2. *Lema calabarica* CLARK.
3. *Lema Parryi* BALY.
4. *Lema turgida* JAC. var.?
5. *Lema mitis* CLARK.
6. *Lema rubricollis* KLUG.
7. *Lema Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
8. *Lema cribraria* JAC.
9. *Lema camerunensis* JAC. n. sp.
10. *Lema* sp.
11. *Lema* sp.
12. *Crioceris livida* DALM.

Megalopinæ.

1. *Poecilomorpha Lacordairei* WESTW.

Eumolpinæ.

1. *Scelodonta egregia* LEFÈV.
2. *Pseudocolaspis aurichalcea* THOMS.
3. *Nerissus femoralis* LEF.
4. *Nerissus viridipennis* JAC.
5. *Ennodius Murrayi* CHAP.
6. *Colasposoma camerunense* JAC.
7. *Colasposoma Kraatzi* JAC.
8. *Colasposoma Pradieri* LEF.
9. *Dermoxanthus fulvus* BALY.
10. *Menius parvulus* JAC.
11. *Menius flavitarsus* JAC.
12. *Menius viridiaeneus* JAC.

13. *Menius splendidus* JAC.
14. *Rhembastus Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
15. *Rhembastus nigratarsus* LEFÈV.
16. *Rhembastus* sp.

Chrysomelinæ.

1. *Ceralces ferrugineus* GERST.
2. *Horatopyga ornata* BALY.
3. *Plagioderia cognata* BALY.
4. *Melasoma livida* STAL.?

Halticinæ.

1. *Phygasia magna* WEISE (*gabonensis* JAC.).
2. *Phygasia marginata* JAC.
3. *Sebaethe torrida* BALY.
4. *Sebaethe pallidicornis* JAC.
5. *Haltica inæqualis* ALLD.
6. *Nisotra Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
7. *Nisotra dilecta* DALM.
8. *Nisotra spadicea* DALM.
9. *Physoma Dohrni* HAR.

Galerucinæ.

1. *Oides gibbosa* JAC. (*assimilis* Gah.)
2. *Oides ferruginea* FAB.
3. *Oides typographica* RITS.
4. *Diacantha melanoptera* THOMS.
5. *Diacantha flavescens* WEISE.
6. *Hyperacantha flavonigra* THOMS.
7. *Hyperacantha Deusseni* KARSCH.
8. *Hyperacantha Preussi* WEISE.
9. *Hyperacantha hypomelaena* THOMS.
10. *Aulacophora cavifrons* THOMS.
11. *Chapuisia basalis* JAC. n. sp.
12. *Chapuisia Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
13. *Cerochroa maculicollis* BALY.

14. *Nirina epiphiata* DALM.
15. *Nirinoides abdominalis* JAC.
16. *Aethonea variabilis* JAC.
17. *Stenoplatys Pascoi* BALY.
18. *Ornithognatus generosus* THOMS.
19. *Platyxantha sublaevipennis* JAC.
20. *Phyllobroticella flava* JAC.
21. *Phyllobroticella picipes* WEISE.
22. *Syoplia africana* JAC.
23. *Luperodes marginatus* JAC.
24. *Barombia metallica* JAC.
25. *Pseudocrania africana* JAC.
26. *Pseudocrania latifrons* WEISE.
27. *Monolepta elegans* ALLD.
28. *Vitruvia glabripennis* JAC. n. gen.

The following species of *Phytophaga* contained in the collection of Cameroon *Phytophaga* which were kindly submitted to me by Professor SJÖSTEDT for examination seem to be undescribed.

***Lema Sjöstedti* sp. n.**

Plate 10, fig. 1.

Fulvous below, head bluish, antennæ black (the basal joints sometimes fulvous), thorax impunctate, rufous, the anterior angles tuberculate; elytra metallic blue, with deep basal depression, strongly punctate-striate, legs bluish-black, femora rufous (the knees excepted).

Length 5—6 mill.

Head dark blue, the space behind the eyes fulvous, the vertex with a short central groove, eyes moderately deeply triangularly notched, the lateral grooves deep and pubescent, antennæ extending to about the middle of the elytra, black, the basal two or three joints sometimes fulvous below, third and fourth joint equal, elongate, terminal joints slightly thickened; thorax subquadrate, not longer than broad, the anterior angles pointed, tuberculate, the basal sulcus very deep, extending laterally to the under portion of the thorax, not preceded or bounded by a longitudinal ridge, the surface entirely impunctate, dark rufous, scutellum bluish, its apex

truncate; elytra with a deep basal fovea near the suture, dark blue, strongly and closely punctate-striate, the punctures as usual larger at the anterior portion and within the depression, the interstices slightly transversely wrinkled, costate at the sides and apex; below fulvous, the legs bluish, the base of the anterior and intermediate femora more or less and that of the posterior ones to a greater extent, fulvous.

Allied to *L. rubricollis* KLUG., *L. affinis* CLARK and several other West African species but from all distinguished by the coloration of the head and that of the legs and by the impunctate thorax; the eight specimens before me only differ slightly in the amount of fulvous of the legs and sometimes of the antennæ.

Lema camerunensis sp. n.

Plate 10, fig. 2.

Black, posterior portion of the head, the thorax and the elytra fulvous, thorax bisulcate, elytra strongly and closely punctured, depressed below the base.

Length 7—7½ mill.

Head with two strongly raised and punctured tubercles above the eyes, the latter deeply notched, anterior portion of the face black, antennæ slender, moderately long, black, the terminal joints gradually thickened; thorax scarcely longer than broad, the anterior angles pointed, the sides with a deep subquadrate fovea, the disc with several rows of small punctures at the middle, the sides with a short transverse sulcus anteriorly, the anterior margin with a short depression at the middle, basal sulcus deep; elytra with a short depression below the base, closely and strongly punctate-striate, the first row double near the base, the interstices of the apex convex, below and the legs black.

Hab. Assinia, W. Africa (CH. ALLUAUD), Cameroons (SJÖSTEDT).

This *Lema* is another species belonging to the *L. armata* group, but differs in the not tuberculate anterior angles of the thorax, longer antennæ and less deeply punctured elytra, the extreme sides of the abdomen are generally more or less fulvous; whether the present insect is identical with *L. sub-*

castanea WEISE (Wiegman. Arch. 1901, p. 146) of which only a three lines diagnosis is given, I am unable to say; that insect is also described as having a length of 9 mill.

***Nerissus viridipennis* sp. n.**

Plate 10, fig. 3.

Below blackish, the basal joints of the antennæ fulvous, above dark green, closely pubescent, thorax closely punctured, elytra semiconfluently punctate.

Length 6—7 mill.

Head very finely punctured, clothed with white pubescence, labrum fulvous, antennæ long and slender, black, the basal four or five joints more or less fulvous below, fourth and following joints very elongate and slender; thorax one half broader than long, the lateral margins rounded and evenly serrate, the surface closely punctured at the sides, subremotely so at the disc, clothed with white pubescence, elytra very closely punctured, similar to that of the sides of the thorax, the punctures confluent at the base, finer near the apex, pubescent like the other parts, the hairs not arranged in rows; below and the legs black, pubescent.

Cameroons (CONRADT, Prof. SJÖSTEDT).

I must separate this species from *N. affinis* LEFÈV. with which it agrees in most respects, but differs in not being black but green above, the antennæ also are not entirely black but have fulvous basal joints, these are also much more elongate than in LEFÈVRES species of which I possess specimens from Sierra Leone, the labrum in the present insect is likewise fulvous. It is however possible that the latter is but a local form of the other.

***Rhembastus Sjöstedti* sp. n.**

Plate 10, fig. 4.

Subovately rounded, below piceous, above obscure æneous, antennæ and legs fulvous, head remotely, thorax closely punctured, elytra deeply punctate-striate, the interstices strongly longitudinally costate.

Length 3 mill.

Head finely and remotely punctured, the clypeus not separated from the face, eyes large, nearly entire, surrounded by a narrow groove, labrum fulvous, antennæ rather long and slender, entirely pale fulvous, the second and third joint equal, the following joints but slightly longer, terminal joints a little thickened; thorax twice as broad as long, narrowed anteriorly, the sides nearly straight, the disc convex, evenly and rather closely impressed with round punctures, elytra convex and rounded, with about ten highly raised costæ, the fifth one generally interrupted before the middle on account of a transverse depression, the interstices strongly punctate-striate, the humeral callus prominent, tuberculiform, the following costa short and obliquely running towards the lateral margin, legs fulvous, all the femora armed with a small tooth.

Allied to *R. costatus* JAC. (Novit. Zool. 1894 p. 519) but dark æneous, not fulvous, the legs entirely of the latter colour as well as the antennæ, the elytral costæ very strongly raised, the costæ themselves of pale piceous colour or obscure fulvous, the other parts dark æneous.

Colasposoma camerunense sp. n.

Plate 10, fig. 5.

Metallic greenish, spotted with purplish above, basal joints of the antennæ fulvous, head and thorax closely longitudinally strigose and punctured, elytra with close rows of punctures at the inner disc and four obsolete longitudinal lines, the interstices at the sides transversely wrinkled, much more strongly so in the female.

Length 5 mill.

Head finely punctured and strigose in different directions, the vertex and a spot at the clypeus purplish, labrum fulvous, antennæ black, the lower five joints more or less fulvous; thorax nearly three times broader than long, the sides rounded, the surface convex, longitudinally strigose throughout, the interstices finely punctured, the margins green, the disc spotted with purplish (in well marked specimens four spots can be seen, two small ones at the sides and two larger ones at the middle), scutellum with a few punctures, elytra rather

closely and finely punctured in rows near the suture, more irregularly and strongly so at the sides, the interstices at the same place transversely wrinkled in both sexes, but very strongly so in the female, near the apex they are slightly longitudinally costate, beside these, four narrow raised longitudinal lines can be distinguished, the ground colour is metallic green but the costæ are all of a purplish hue, the legs metallic greenish and more or less æneous, the anterior tibiæ of the male slightly curved and elongate.

This is a rather peculiarly marked species, well distinguished on that account and by the sculpture of the thorax; three specimens were obtained by Prof. SJÖSTEDT.

Nisotra Sjöstedti sp. n.

Plate 10, fig. 6.

Fulvous, the apical joints of the antennæ black, head impunctate, thorax closely and finely punctured, deeply notched anteriorly, elytra metallic blue, finely geminate punctate-striate, the interstices slightly rugose at the sides.

Length 4 mill.

Head strongly convex at the vertex, the latter extremely finely punctured, with a single deep puncture above the eyes, the clypeus rounded above by deep oblique grooves, rather convex, finely punctured, antennæ black, the lower five joints fulvous, the second joint scarcely shorter than the following ones; thorax twice as broad as long, the sides feebly rounded, the anterior angles not produced, the anterior margins with a deep perpendicular notch behind the eyes, the surface very finely and closely punctured, scutellum small, fulvous; elytra oblong, more strongly punctured than the thorax, the punctures arranged in closely approached double rows and rather larger at the sides; below and the legs fulvous, the breast more or less black.

Larger than *N. dilecta* DALM., the thorax more finely punctured and the anterior perpendicular grooves much deeper and longer, the elytra more finely punctured and the interstices impunctate.

Chapuisia basalis sp. n.

Testaceous, thorax broad, minutely punctured, elytra extremely finely and closely punctured, obscure testaceous, the base broadly, the margins narrowly fulvous, breast and abdomen obscure fulvous.

Length 10 mill.

Of broadly elongate, posteriorly slightly widened shape, the head broad, testaceous, impunctate, eyes large and round, frontal elevations broad, distinct, antennæ with slender elongate joints, pale fulvous, the third joint half the length of the fourth one, the lower three joints glabrous, the others pubescent (last three joints broken off), thorax transversely subquadrate, without depressions, testaceous, the sides rounded, with a very narrow margin, anterior angles thickened, posterior ones oblique, the disc extremely finely and closely punctured, scutellum broad, testaceous, elytra very nearly similarly punctured as the thorax, their epipleuræ broad, concave at the base, absent below the middle, the disc obscure testaceous, the margins narrowly and the base broadly fulvous, this colour extending upwards to a small extent at the sutural margin at the apex; legs testaceous, the intermediate tibiæ mucronate only, claws appendiculate, the anterior coxal cavities closed.

This is the third species of the genus (*Paralepta* of CHAPUIS) agreeing in all the structural characters with the type but of a much larger and broader shape.

Chapuisia Sjöstedi sp. n.

Plate 10, fig. 7.

Flavous, the terminal joints of the antennæ, the breast and the legs black, thorax and elytra extremely minutely punctured, black.

Length 10 mill.

Head minutely punctate, flavous, with a central fovea, clypeus triangular, antennæ with the lower two joints flavous, the following six, black, the rest wanting; thorax about one half broader than long, the sides feebly rounded at the middle, the surface rather flattened, flavous, extremely mi-

nutely punctate, scutellum black, elytra with a shallow sutural depression below the base, extremely minutely punctured, black, the apical sutural angles obscure fulvous; abdomen flavous, the breast and legs black, claws appendiculate, anterior coxal cavities closed.

Hab. Cameroons.

There is only a single female specimen of this species before me, which is well distinguished by its coloration and the very minute elytral punctuation, the last abdominal segment is nearly entire and the abdomen is clothed with fulvous pubescence.

Vitruvia gen. n.

Body elongate, glabrous, antennæ filiform, head without frontal tubercles, thorax subquadrate, convex, without sulcus, elytra impunctate, their epipleuræ extremely broad and continued to the apex, legs slender, the first joint of the posterior tarsi as long as the following joints together, claws appendiculate, prosternum invisible between the coxæ, the anterior cavities open.

This genus is very closely allied to the Eastern *Sumatrasia* JAC. (Notes Leyd. Mus. Vol. VI), it is of exactly the same colour, size and shape but differs in the structure of the head which is broad and flat without frontal elevations, the antennæ are also inserted below the eyes and more widely separated, the elytral epipleuræ are still very much wider than in *Sumatrasia* and the elytra itself are not punctate-striate. Type *Vitruvia glabripennis*.

Vitruvia glabripennis sp. n.

Plate 10, fig. 8.

Entirely pale fulvous, the head, thorax and the elytra impunctate, the legs finely pubescent.

Length 5—7 mill.

Head very broad and flat, pale fulvous or testaceous, the clypeus not separated from the face, apex of the mandibles black, antennæ scarcely extending to the middle of the elytra, testaceous, the second, third and fourth joint gra-

dually lengthened, thorax but little broader than long, the lateral margins straight, the posterior ones slightly rounded, the surface convex, impunctate, scutellum triangular; elytra much broader at the base than the thorax, rather convex, the apex rounded; the surface entirely impunctate, the epipleuræ extremely broad and but little narrowed towards the apex, trilobate apex of the last abdominal segment of the male with the middle lobe subquadrate, slightly concave.

The collection, containing 72 sp. in 1,552 specimens, belongs to the Museum of Natural History at Stockholm.

Explanation of plate 10.

- Fig. 1. *Lema Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
» 2. *Lema camerunensis* JAC. n. sp.
» 3. *Nerissus viridipennis* JAC. n. sp.
» 4. *Rhembastus Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
» 5. *Colasposoma camerunense* JAC. n. sp.
» 6. *Nisotra Sjöstedti* JAC. n. sp.
» 7. *Chapuisia Sjöstedti* n. sp.
» 8. *Vitruvia glabripennis* JAC. n. sp.
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